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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A method for securing an information stream comprising a sequence of image frames, said method comprising the steps of:

segmenting said information stream into a plurality of information stream segments having a first segment sequence, each of said information stream segments comprising a plurality of image frames;

compressing said image frames <u>after said segmenting step</u> by employing prediction-based compression in forming said information stream segments;

re-sequencing said information stream segments to produce a re-sequenced information stream having a second segment sequence, said first segment sequence being related to said second segment sequence by an index; and

encrypting said re-sequenced information stream and said index.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

distributing said encrypted re-sequenced information stream and said index to one or more information consumers.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein, said step of distributing comprises the steps of:

distributing, via a first medium, said encrypted re-sequenced information stream; and

distributing, via a second medium, said encrypted index.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said encrypted and re-sequenced

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(information stream segments are distributed to said one or more information consumers in a temporally discontinuous manner.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said encrypted and re-sequenced information stream segments are distributed to said one or more information consumers in a temporally discontinuous manner.

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein:

said first medium comprises a plurality of distribution channels, each of said plurality of distribution channels distributing a respective plurality of said encrypted and re-sequenced information stream segments.

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

each of said information stream segments comprises a first number of compressed image frames.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein:

in the case of an information stream segment including one or more predictively encoded compressed image frames, said one or more predictively encoded compressed image frames being predictively encoded using reference image frames within said information stream segment including said one or more predictively encoded compressed image frames.

9.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:

a first compressed image frame within each of said information stream segments comprises an intra-coded frame.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said information stream comprises a plurality of image frames and associated

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audio frames; and

each of said information stream segments includes a respective first plurality of image frames and a respective second plurality of audio frames, said first plurality of image frames and said second plurality of audio frames intended for presentation during substantially the same temporal period.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said information stream comprises a plurality of image frames and associated audio frames, and wherein said step of segmenting comprises the steps of:

segmenting said information stream into a plurality of image information stream segments having said first segment sequence, each of said image information stream segments comprising a plurality of image frames;

segmenting said information stream into a plurality of audio information stream segments having a third segment sequence, each of said audio information stream segments comprising a plurality of audio frames.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said step of re-sequencing comprises the steps of:

re-sequencing said image information stream segments to produce a re-sequenced image information stream having said second segment sequence, said first segment sequence being related to said second segment sequence by said index; and

re-sequencing said audio information stream segments to produce a re-sequenced audio information stream having said fourth segment sequence, said third segment sequence being related to said fourth segment sequence by said index.

13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said image information stream and said audio information stream are encrypted using at least one of:

a common encryption technique using a common encryption key;

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different encryption keys using said common encryption technique;

different encryption techniques using said common encryption key; and

said different encryption techniques using said different encryption keys.

14.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein

said step of encrypting includes a step of encrypting said indicia of buffer behavior.

15.   (Currently amended) A method for recovering image frames from an information stream formed according to the securing method of claim 1, said method for recovering comprising the steps of:

recovering said index relating said second segment sequence to said first segment sequence;

decrypting said encrypted information stream segments to produce corresponding decrypted information stream segments;

re-sequencing, using said recovered index, said decrypted information stream segments; and

decompressing, after said re-sequencing step using a prediction-based decompression process associated with said compression process, said compressed image frames included within said decrypted information stream segments.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein:

said encrypted re-sequenced information stream is received via a first medium; and

said encrypted index is received via a second medium.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said encrypted and re-sequenced information stream segments are received in a temporally discontinuous manner.

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18.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of re-sequencing comprises the steps of:

accessing, from a random access storage containing at least some of said decrypted information stream segments, said decrypted information stream segments according to said first segment sequence.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of re-sequencing comprises the steps of:

accessing, from a random access storage containing at least some of said encrypted information stream segments, said encrypted information stream segments according to said first segment sequence.

23.   (Currently amended) A method for recovering an information stream having a first segment sequence from an encrypted re-sequenced information stream having a second segment sequence, said method comprising the steps of:

recovering an index relating said second segment sequence to said first segment sequence;

decrypting said encrypted information segments to form respective decrypted information segments;

re-sequencing, using said recovered index, said decrypted information segments to form an information stream comprising a plurality of image segments arranged according to said first segment sequence; and

decompressing after said re-sequencing step a plurality of image frames forming

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each of said information stream segments by employing prediction-based decompression.

24.   (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a segmentation module, for segmenting an information stream into a plurality of information stream segments, said information stream segments arranged according to a first segment sequence, each of said information stream segments comprising a plurality of image frames;

a compression module, for compressing said image frames after said segmenting step by employing prediction-based compression in forming said information stream segments;

a re-sequencing module, for re-arranging according to a second segment sequence, said information stream segments including said compressed image frames, said first segment sequence being related to said second segment sequence by an index; and

an encryption module, for encrypting said re-sequenced information stream segments and said index.

25.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

said index and said encrypted and re-sequenced information stream segments are coupled to one or more information consumers via a distribution channel.

26.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

said index is distributed to one or more information consumers via a first distribution channel; and

said encrypted and re-sequenced information stream segments are distributed to said one or more information consumers via a second distribution channel.

27.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein:

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said encrypted and re-sequenced information stream segments are distributed to said one or more information consumers in a temporally discontinuous manner.

28.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein:

said encrypted and re-sequenced information stream segments are distributed to said one or more information consumers in a temporally discontinuous manner.

29.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein:

said second distribution channel comprises a plurality of distribution channels, each of said plurality of distribution channels distributing a respective plurality of said encrypted and re-sequenced information stream segments.

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